

WILLIAM CONWAY, DECEASED—HEIRS OR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES OF.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 537.]

JANUARY 16, 1857.

Mr. SANDIDGE, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, made the following

REPORT.

*Upon the bill to revive an act entitled "An act for the relief of the heirs, or their legal representatives, of William Conway, deceased," referred to the Committee on Private Land Claims, they report as follows:*

On the 2d July, 1836, Congress passed an act authorizing the representatives of said Conway to locate, within twelve months from the passage of the act, on any unappropriated public land in the State of Louisiana subject to private entry, one thousand and seventy acres in a body, in contiguous tracts, according to the legal subdivisions of the public surveys; and also two thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine acres, under the same limitations, in consideration of the release, within twelve months, by the said heirs or legal representatives, in favor of the United States, of the land originally included in three grants from the government of Spain, and confirmed by the commissioners for investigating land titles in the district west of Pearl river, by reports numbered 48, 49, and 50. And that, in accordance with said act of Congress, (as appears from a communication made by the Commissioner of the General Land Office,) a certificate was issued by the register and receiver of the land office at Monroe, Louisiana, on the 26th of June, 1837, to Augustus S. Phelps, the representative of the heirs aforesaid, for one thousand and sixty-six acres and 7.100 of an acre, in full satisfaction of the 1,070 acres granted by said act of July, 1836, which was located upon certain described lands; and that the said lands thus described have since been sold by the government to other parties, and been patented to them; and that there was nothing in his office showing that any attempt had been made to locate the remaining portion of 2,789 acres. In the absence of the papers submitted by the Hon. Miles Taylor, when the bill was first introduced in August last, giving the reasons why no lands had been obtained and no attempt made to locate the largest portion of the grant, and which cannot now be found by the clerks of the House, the com-

mittee have taken the statement of Mr. Taylor himself, who, from having been at one time counsel for some of the parties in interest under the said act, says that it was in consequence of a legal contest then going on, and which continued for several years, between those parties.

As the parties, by the government sale to others, lost the location made within the period fixed by law, and *could* not locate any portion of remainder, for the reason stated, your committee see no reason why the said act of 1836 should not be revived for another year's time. And although it is now impossible to find in said State, in compact bodies, such a quantity of land, of much value, your committee have not thought proper to recommend any change in the original law, and herewith report back the bill, without amendment, for favorable consideration of the House.